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The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If they are all excited and discontented and likely to commit breaches of peace."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—" Are Government aware that Mr. Giri has nowhere in any strike been responsible for any violence ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Government have no information, Sir."

Forests

Alleged assignment of lands near Nilgiris to the Raja of Panagal.

* 291 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government contemplate assigning a large block of lands on or near the Nilgiris to the Raja of Panagal, M.L.C. ;

(b) whether the said Raja recently inspected the lands in the company of the Tahsildar ;

(c) what is the purpose for which the assignment or grant is proposed to be made and on what terms ; and

(d) whether a political follower of the Raja is also to get a similar assignment of land, though on a smaller scale ?

A.—(a) & (c) The Government have received an application from the Raja of Panagal for the grant of 31·77 acres of reserved forests on the Nilgiris for constructing a building for his residence and for growing an orchard and vegetable garden. The question whether the land should be disforested or not is now under consideration of the Government.

(b) The Government have no information.

(d) The Government have no such proposal under their consideration.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know the date of the original application of the Raja Sahib for the assignment ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know when the application was made ? "

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know on what terms was the assignment applied for and on what terms is it proposed to be given ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is for the Revenue Department to lay down the terms if it is decided that the forests are to be disafforested."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Are the Government aware that the people of Ootacamund including some European residents are objecting to such an assignment ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Was it made on the 31st March this year ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I cannot say, Sir, unless there is notice."

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Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Has the hon. Law Member read an article in the *Madras Mail* objecting to such an assignment ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I remember to have read an article by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar in some newspaper ; I do not know whether it was the *Madras Mail*. I thought that the article was thoroughly unreasonable."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Thanks for the certificate, Mr. President. But I would like him to read the article and try to answer the allegations therein."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" If I think it necessary, I shall read it ; I am not bound to read all the articles."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Is it usual to collect a price in all such cases of assignment, when the people are able to pay ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" What was the price in this particular case ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" When the Government come to a conclusion as to the assignment they will settle the price."

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know if assignments of lands were made in the case of any other hon. Member of this House during the course of this year ? "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Is 'construction of residential buildings' one of the objects for which darkhast lands may be assigned ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is left to them to use the land in any way they like. The only policy of the Government is to see whether there is any objection to the disafforestation or assignment of the particular lands in question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Do not the Government ask for the purpose for which the lands are assigned ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Not generally."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" If 20 people ask for an assignment of land, do not the Government exercise their discretion to see whether the people who ask for the assignment deserve it or not ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It will depend upon this fact whether there is any objection to the assignment of the land in question. If there is no objection, irrespective of the purpose for which the land is required, Government will examine the whole question before making the assignment."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know at what stage the correspondence is ? "

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The usual practice is this. The Forest authorities and the Collector inspect the spot and make recommendations to the Government. I suppose it is in some such stage as that."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" Sir, is there any precedent of this nature in the past?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Any number of precedents."

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" May I know whether in respect of such forest areas applications for much larger areas of lands than 31 acres are usually received by Government and are granted?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir."

Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDIYAR :—" If lands have been given on darkhast to gentlemen like Mr. Ramachandra Rao and Mr. Subba Rao, will the Government consider they have been given to the political followers of the Raja of Panagal?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Certainly not."

Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA :—" What is the value of this land?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" It is not possible to say that now."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if in coming to a conclusion Government propose to take into account the fact that the applicant in this case happens to be a political follower of the Government on whom the hon. the Law Member depends for his existence?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No political consideration of any kind will govern the assignment or refusal of the assignment of the lands."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know the terms offered by the Raja of Panagal for this land?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want notice, Sir. But so far as I am now aware, he has not offered any terms in his application."

Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR :—" May I know whether it is a disqualification on the part of an applicant to be the political follower of the Raja of Panagal?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Absolutely no objection."

Mr. P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" Sir, the hon. the Law Member said that there were any number of precedents of this nature. Were lands given in such cases to well-to-do people, Raja Sahibs, members of Legislative Councils, leaders of parties, and not to poor people of the depressed classes?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I want notice, Sir. I am speaking subject to correction; I believe that there was an application from the Maharaja of Jodhpur."